



# Reusable Bag Law for Alameda County

## Expansion to Eating Establishments - 2017

On **November 1, 2017**, the Reusable Bag Law for Alameda County is expanding to include **all eating establishments**, including delivery services. The requirements of the new law are as follows:

		<b>1. No more single-use plastic bags.</b> Beginning November 1, 2017, eating establishments in Alameda County can no longer distribute single-use plastic bags.
		<b>2. No charge for paper bags.</b> Recycled content paper bags may be distributed for free. If your eating establishment only distributes compliant paper bags, no additional action is necessary.
		<b>3. Protective plastic bags without handles are allowed.</b> The law only applies to carryout bags, not to paper or plastic bags <i>without</i> handles that are used to protect food (such as around containers of soup or stew to prevent spilling).
		<b>4. Charge 10 cents for reusable bags.</b> Compliant reusable bags (including thick, reusable plastic bags) may be distributed if at least 10 cents is charged and itemized on the digital/printed receipt. The eating establishment keeps the 10 cent charge, which is not subject to sales tax.

### Who is Affected?

The November 1 expansion of this ordinance applies to all establishments selling prepared food and beverages to the public. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Restaurants
- Cafés
- Food Trucks
- Coffee Shops
- Bars
- Bakeries
- To-Go & Meal Delivery Vendors
- Delis
- Cafeterias

Visit [www.ReusableBagsAC.org](http://www.ReusableBagsAC.org) for more information, and sources for compliant bags.



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## Getting Ready for the New Law

1. Use up your existing supply of single-use bags before the ordinance takes effect on November 1, 2017.
2. Order compliant bags to have them in place by November 1. Visit [www.ReusableBagsAC.org](http://www.ReusableBagsAC.org) for bag specifications and sources for compliant bags.
3. Eating establishments that fail to comply with any elements of the ordinance are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and severity of the violation.
4. If your eating establishment does not distribute bags, or you are only distributing compliant paper bags, no changes are needed.

### About the Reusable Bag Law

Since 2013, grocery, drug and liquor stores in Alameda County have not been allowed to provide single-use plastic carryout bags at checkout. Building on the success of the original law, the Alameda County Waste Management Authority expanded it to include all types of retail stores, restaurants, cafés and food trucks.

The rules for eating establishments differ slightly from those for general retail stores in that eating establishments can provide recycled content paper bags free of charge. All stores can provide paper and plastic bags without handles used to protect individual items being sold.



The reusable bag law is designed to reduce waste and litter, and keep plastic bags out of local waterways.



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